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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 004534

SIPDIS

NSC STAFF FOR POUNDS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/15/2015

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [EG](#)

SUBJECT: REPORT: MUBARAK TO NAME VICE PRESIDENT

REF: CAIRO 4519

Classified by A/DCM Michael Corbin for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

Summary

[1](#)1. (C) The London-based Financial Times reported on June 15 that President Mubarak intends to name a Vice President - a step he has refused to take through contacts we have spoken with were unaware of and surprised by the news, with a number expressing skepticism, noting that the timing of such a r

A British Scoop

[1](#)2. (U) The Financial Times reported on June 15 that President Mubarak intends to name a Vice President - a step he has refused to take through

[1](#)3. (C) PA officer contacted XXXXXXXXXXXX, who was by then back in London, for an informal clarification. In response, XXXXXXXXXXXX advised th

Egyptians Surprised, Bemused, Skeptical

[1](#)4. (SBU) Embassy contacts we approached for reaction were, in turns, surprised, bemused, and skeptical of the report. Of eight contacts we sp

[1](#)5. (C) Contacts we spoke with, most of whom would fall into the "reformist/opposition" category, disagreed on whether such an announcement if

[1](#)6. (C) Hafez Abou Seada, Secretary-General of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, expressed an opposite view: "At least the country we lack a sense of direction."

[1](#)7. (C) Rifa'at Said, President of the leftist Tagammu' Party, told us the fact that such information would be conveyed by the Financial Times,

Comment

[1](#)8. (C) In the past two years, a variety of internal and external factors, as well as Mubarak's advancing age and questions about his health, h

[1](#)9. (C) We judge XXXXXXXXXXXX a serious and seasoned journalist, very unlikely to fabricate such a story or "misunderstand" an important point

[1](#)10. (C) Speculation that EGIS Chief Omar Soliman would be the most likely candidate for the VP job comes as no surprise. Soliman, one of Mubarak's closest advisors, has had an increased public profile in r many, if not most, ministers and ruling party figures. Though many remain convinced of the existence of a master plan to install Gamal Mubarak

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GRAY